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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/758,475

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Stephen G. Perlman

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11/24/2008

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EXAMINER

KEEFER, MICHAEL E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2454

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/758,475	Applicant(s) PERLMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner MICHAEL E. KEEFER	Art Unit 2454	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,7,8,12 and 14-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,7,8,12 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment and RCE filed 10/8/2008.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacIntosh et al. (US 2002/0138581), hereafter MacIntosh in view of Friend (US 2004/0153512) and further in view of Gautier (US 2004/0045031).

Regarding **claims 1, 8, and 15**, MacIntosh discloses:

A method for filtering unwanted email messages comprising:

defining a plurality of disposable email addresses, wherein each of the disposable email addresses is associated with a different Website and/or individual; (abstract, an email address ... automatically associated with the web page)

the disposable email address further being associated with a non-disposable email address of a user, the non-disposable email address identifying an email server on which the user has an active email account. (see [0069], note the "target email address" is a non-disposable email address)

in response to detecting a particular Website being visited by an end user, automatically providing the user with one or more disposable email address currently associated with that particular Website, the disposable address provided by a disposable email address server. ([0070]-[0071] disclose providing

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the user with a disposable email address to select in response to detecting a website being visited by a user. See also [0076].)

automatically entering the disposable email address within a data field on the Website upon selection of the data entry field with a cursor control device the automatic entering being performed by a browser plug-in. (MacIntosh discloses a user "dragging" an address from a second window to a first window. (See paragraph 72, also Applicant's remarks, page 2, second paragraph) This, read broadly, means that when the field is selected by the cursor control device (i.e. the email address is dragged to it) the address is automatically copied into the field. Further, see [0101-0103], especially [0103])

receiving an email message addressed to the disposable email address at a first server (see [0084-85] which describes the process of receiving an email)

executing filtering logic to analyze the email message according to a specific set of filtering rules and, in response to results of the analysis, either:

a. forwarding the email message to the email server on which the user has an account by adding the user's non-disposable email address into the addressee field of the forwarded email message; or

b. filtering the email message and not forwarding the email message to the email server. (see [0087], specifically 'the mail server then directs the database server to determine whether the email forwarding address meets the auto-expiration criteria specified by the user ...")

if a disposable email address is not already associated with the Website, at least one of the disposable email address options comprises an option to automatically generate a disposable email address for the Website. ([0070]-[0071] disclose providing the user with a disposable email address to select in response to detecting a website being visited by a user.)

subsequently receiving an indication from the user that any email messages directed to the disposable email address are to be filtered; ([0085] describes that users define auto-expiration dates for the email addresses, further, the user can create a cap on the messages received for an email address before it goes inactive and thus messages sent to it will be filtered)

filtering any subsequent email messages directed to the disposable email address; (see [0085])

MacIntosh discloses all the limitations of claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 15-16 except for generating the email address by combining a domain name and a base email address.

The general concept of combining a domain name with a base email address is well known in the art as taught by Friend. (see at least Fig. 9 and [0061])

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine MacIntosh with the general concept of combining a domain name with a base email address as taught by Friend in order to allow a user to more readily identify what account an email address is used with.

MacIntosh and Friend teach all the limitations of claims 1, 5, 8, 12 and 15-16 except for the addition of a number to a pre-existing email address.

The general concept of adding a number to a pre-existing address is well known in the art as taught by Gautier. ([0009] teaches adding a number to an existing email address)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify MacIntosh and Friend with the general concept of adding a number to a pre-existing address as taught by Gautier in order to make unique email addresses.

Regarding **claim 16**, MacIntosh discloses:

The disposable email address server receives the emails to filter. ([0084-0085], see Fig. 5 also which shows the emalias server receiving the email)

4. Claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacIntosh and Friend as applied to claims 1-4 and 8-11 above, and further in view of Hall (US 2004/0205173).

MacIntosh, Friend, and Gautier teach all the limitations of claims 7 and 14 except for adding a random number with a string to create an email address.

The general concept of adding a random number to a string to create an email address is well known in the art as taught by Hall. ([0011] teaches appending a string with a random number to create an email address.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify MacIntosh, Friend, and Gautier with the general concept of adding a random number to a string to create an email address as taught by Hall in order to reduce unsolicited emails.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 10/8/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
6. The Examiner has pointed out in the above rejections how the newly added amendments map to the references of record.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL E. KEEFER whose telephone number is (571)270-1591. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Joseph E. Avellino/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2446